

Message Text

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----- 022651 /10

R 152306Z DEC 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANILA
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS STATE 304439

FOR USADB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EFIN

SUBJECT: TRAVEL OF U.S. ADB DIRECTOR

REFS: A. MANILA 19383, B. STATE 299612

1. WE READ WITH INTEREST OF AMBASSADOR PAPP'S PROPOSED TRAVEL TO FIJI, TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA. IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY STUDYING WAYS IN WHICH THE USG COULD SHOW GREATER INTEREST AND CONCERN IN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THESE ISLAND STATES. ALTHOUGH WE AND THE AUSTRALIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS ARE AGREED THAT COUNTRY DONOR ASSISTANCE TO THIS REGION SHOULD REMAIN THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LATTER TWO STATES, WE ARE EXPLORING HOW IN A MODEST WAY THE U.S. MIGHT ALSO HELP IN AN ASSISTANCE EFFORT. WE DO NOT ENVISAGE INSTITUTING BILATERAL PROGRAMS TO EACH OF THESE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES BUT INSTEAD PROPOSE TO CHANNEL OUR AID THROUGH

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EXISTING REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THE SOUTH PACIFIC

COMMISSION AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC BUREAU FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION OR VIA VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. OUR ASSISTANCE EFFORTS WOULD CONCENTRATE IN THE CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED AREAS OF HEALTH, NUTRITION, EDUCATION, POPULATION, ETC.

2. IN ORDER TO DEVELOP MORE SPECIFICS ABOUT ASSISTANCE

NEEDS OF THE ISLANDS THEMSELVES A STATE/AID SURVEY TEAM WILL VISIT THE REGION ON THE HEELS OF AMBASSADOR PAPP. DETAILS OF THIS TRIP ARE OUTLINED IN REF B. WHICH IS BEING REPEATED TO AMEMBASSY MANILA.

3. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL FOR THE TEAM TO HAVE THE BENEFIT OF ANY OBSERVATIONS OF AMBASSADOR PAPP BEFORE THEY THEMSELVES REACH THE ISLANDS. IF POSSIBLE, WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE SUCH A MESSAGE BEING ADDRESSED TO US HERE IN WASHINGTON PRIOR TO JANUARY 12 OR TO THE TEAM DURING ITS CONSULTATION PERIOD WITH THE NEW ZEALANDERS AND AUSTRALIANS UP TO JANUARY 20. KISSINGER

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